

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 BIB-01 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 AF-06 EA-07

NEA-10 /113 W

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R 270742Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6650

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW

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SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SOCIALIST LEADERS MEETING

REF: STOCKHOLM 0406

1. BERNT CARLSSON, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DISCUSSED WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HELSINGOR SOCIALIST SUMMIT. CARLSSON, WHO WAS MEMBER OF 3-MEMBER DELEGATION TO HELSINGOR, CONFIRMED REPORT EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED EARLIER (REFTEL) ON DIVISION IN MEETING BETWEEN MITTERAND ON ONE HAND AND SCHMIDT AND WILSON ON OTHER ON QUESTION OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE. NOTING OF DECISION OF CONFERENCE THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL SOCIALIST PARTY SHOULD DECIDE QUESTION OF COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS IN LIGHT OF ITS OWN UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES, CARLSSON CLAIMED THAT THIS LINE WAS IN CONFORMITY WITH DECISIONS TAKEN BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUREAU IN APRIL 1972 IN AMSTERDAM AND IN OCTOBER 1974 IN LONDON, I.E., THAT EACH PARTY MUST MAKE ITS OWN DECISION ON THIS ISSUE, BUT THAT SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL ITSELF SHOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES.

2. CARLSSON EXPRESSED REGRET THAT DIFFERENCES OVER QUESTION OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAD RECEIVED SO MUCH PUBLICITY. HE FELT THAT FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE HAD CREATED IMPRESSION TO OUTSIDE WORLD THAT CONFERENCE WAS RACKED BY DISPUTES. IN FACT, HE CONTINUED, ATMOSPHERE OF CONFERENCE WAS GENERALLY FRIENDLY, AND IMPRESSION OF MOST PARTICIPANTS WAS THAT MEETING HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. HE CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORT THAT PALME HAD ASSUMED LOW PROFILE ON COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION ISSUE, BUT ADDED THAT PALME AS WELL AS OTHER SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN FRANCE AND ITALY TO ACCEPT DEMOCRATIC RULES OF THE GAME AND ABANDON SOME OF THEIR BASIC TENETS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES. (IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR'S QUERY, CARLSSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO WAY OF DETERMINING SINCERITY OF ALLEGED COMMUNIST "CONVERSION" TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES UNTIL AFTER THEY HAD JOINED GOVERNMENTS--

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WHICH MIGHT BE TOO LATE.)

3. ACCORDING TO CARLSSON, SWEDISH DELEGATION FELT MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE DISCUSSED AT HELSINGOR WAS HOW TO COPE WITH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FULL EMPLOYMENT WAS ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR SOCIALIST ECONOMIES, AND THAT THERE COULD BE NO "ACCEPTABLE LEVEL" OF UNEMPLOYMENT. THE

STATE, IT WAS AGREED, SHOULD USE BOTH TRADITIONAL KEYNESIAN METHODS AND DIRECT INTERVENTION TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY. CARLSSON SAID PALME SPENT SOME TIME DISCUSSING A THEME THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SOUNDED RECENTLY IN SWEDEN: 8.E., THAT WORK IS THE CENTRAL VALUE OF HUMAN ACTIVITY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SEEMED TO BE EMBRACING THE OLD FASHIONED CAPITALIST CONCEPT OF THE "WORK ETHIC," ADDING THAT IT IS BASICALLY A "PURITAN CONCEPT." AS PALME SEES IT, CARLSSON CONTINUED, WORK SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE THOUGHT OF AS SIMPLY A MEANS TO A LIVELIHOOD, BUT RATHER AS THE CHIEF WAY IN WHICH MAN FULFILLS HIMSELF IN SOCIETY. THEREFORE, PALME ATTRIBUTES "ENORMOUS" IMPORTANCE TO EFFORTS TO MAKE WORK MORE SATISFACTORY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL WORKER.

4. ATTENTION OF SOCIALISTS NOW, CARLSSON STATED, IS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE FEBRUARY 14 MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUREAU IN PARIS. ONE OF MAIN FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES THERE WILL BE ATTITUDE OF SOCIALIST PARTIES TOWARDS MPLA. CARLSSON SUGGESTED THAT SWEDISH SOCIALIST DEMOCRATS-- WHO HAVE COME STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF MPLA, IN CONTRAST TO GOS'S MORE GUARDED APPROACH--WILL PROMOTE PRO-MPLA LINE AT MEETING.

5. CARLSSON WAS RELUCTANT TO SPECULATE ON FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, OTHER THAN TO RULE OUT BOTH WILLY BRANDT (TOO OCCUPIED WITH HIS WORK AS SPD CHAIRMAN) AND FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN SORSA AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES. HE ALSO DECLINED TO COMMENT ON RUMOR THAT HE (CARLSSON) MIGHT TAKE POSITION IN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL HIERARCHY.

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6. COMMENT: ON THE ISSUE OF SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COOPERATION, AS WELL AS ON MPLA, THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, AS IS THEIR WONT APPEAR TO BE WAFFLING. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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